

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 433
By Pruitt

A RESOLUTION to name and designate the month of May, 2003,
as "Tennessee Osteoporosis Prevention Month".

WHEREAS, osteoporosis, as a national health problem, does not have the "immediacy" of some of the diseases perceived as deadlier, such as AIDS, cancer, or diabetes; and

WHEREAS, osteoporosis is a major health threat for more than twenty-eight million Americans, eighty percent of whom are women. At least eighteen million more Americans have low bone mass, placing them at risk for osteoporosis; and

WHEREAS, osteoporosis, or porous bone, is a disease characterized by low bone mass and structural deterioration of bone tissue, leading to bone fragility and an increased susceptibility to fractures of the hip, spine, and wrist; and

WHEREAS, one out of every two women and one out of every eight men over the age of fifty will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, women lose up to twenty percent of their bone mass in the five to seven years following menopause, making them more susceptible to osteoporosis, with ten percent of African-American women over the age of fifty already suffering from the disease, and an

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additional thirty percent having low bone density that puts them at risk of developing osteoporosis; and

WHEREAS, osteoporosis is responsible for more than 1.5 million fractures annually, including hip fractures, the most expensive fractures, and twelve to twenty percent of those who suffer a hip fracture do not survive the first six months after the fracture. At least half of those who do survive require help in performing daily activities, and fifteen to twenty percent will need to enter a long-term care facility; and

WHEREAS, while osteoporosis is often thought of as an older person's disease, it can strike at any age; and

WHEREAS, a healthy lifestyle, including a balanced diet in calcium and regular exercise can help prevent osteoporosis; and

WHEREAS, building peak bone mass during childhood and young adulthood is critical to reducing the chances of developing osteoporosis later in life; and

WHEREAS, since osteoporosis progresses silently and currently has no cure, prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment are essential to reducing the prevalence of and devastation from this disease; and

WHEREAS, although there exists a large quantity of public information about osteoporosis, it remains inadequately disseminated and not tailored to meet the needs of specific population groups; and

WHEREAS, most people, including physicians, health care providers, and government agencies, continue to lack knowledge in the prevention, detection, and treatment of the disease; and

WHEREAS, experts in the field of osteoporosis believe that with greater awareness of the value of prevention among medical experts, service providers, and the public, osteoporosis will be preventable and treatable in the future, thereby reducing the costs of long-term care; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that Tennessee is called upon to observe May, 2003, as "Tennessee Osteoporosis Prevention Month"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the month of May, 2003, is hereby designated as "Tennessee Osteoporosis Prevention Month".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to the Governor with the request that he declare the month of May, 2003, as "Tennessee Osteoporosis Prevention Month" in accordance with this resolution.